

REMARKS

FIGs. 1-3 and 4A-4C are objected to as not containing the legend "PRIOR ART." The drawings are amended herein to add the legend to the drawings. Reconsideration of the objections to the drawings is requested.

Claims 1, 2, 16, 17, 20-23, 32, 33 and 36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Applicant Admitted Prior Art (AAPA). Claims 8-15, 18, 19, 34 and 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the AAPA in view of Kobayashi, *et al.* (U.S. Patent Number 5,914,907). In view of the amendments to claims and the following remarks, the rejections are respectfully traversed, and reconsideration of the rejections is requested.

Claims 3-7 and 24-31 are objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claims, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, claim 1 is amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of dependent claim 3, and independent claim 22 is amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 24. As a result of the amendments, all of the rejected claims now incorporate allowable subject matter. Therefore, it is believed that the claims are allowable, and reconsideration of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(a) and 103(a) is respectfully requested.


New claims 37-39 are presented for examination. None of the cited art, taken alone or in combination, teaches or suggests the inventions set forth in the new claims. Allowance of the new claims is respectfully solicited.

In view of the amendments to the claims and the foregoing remarks, it is believed that all claims pending in the application are in condition for allowance, and such allowance is respectfully solicited. If a telephone conference will expedite prosecution of the application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Application Number 10/602,111
Amendment dated October 20, 2004
Reply to Office Action of August 10, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 10/20/04
Mills & Onello, LLP
Eleven Beacon Street, Suite 605
Boston, MA 02108
Telephone: (617) 994-4900
Facsimile: (617) 742-7774
J:\SAM\0392\amenda\amendmenta.wpd


Steven M. Mills
Registration Number 36,610
Attorney for Applicants

Application Number 10/602,111
Amendment dated October 20, 2004
Reply to Office Action of August 10, 2004

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to FIGs. 1-3 and 4A-4C. The sheets, which include FIGs. 1-3 and 4A-4C, replace the original sheets. In FIGs. 1-3 and 4A-4C, the legend "PRIOR ART" is added.

A marked-up version of the drawings, with revisions shown in red, is included with the amended drawings. Entry of the amendments to the drawings is respectfully requested.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets
Annotated Sheets Showing Changes

Fig. 1
(PRIOR ART)

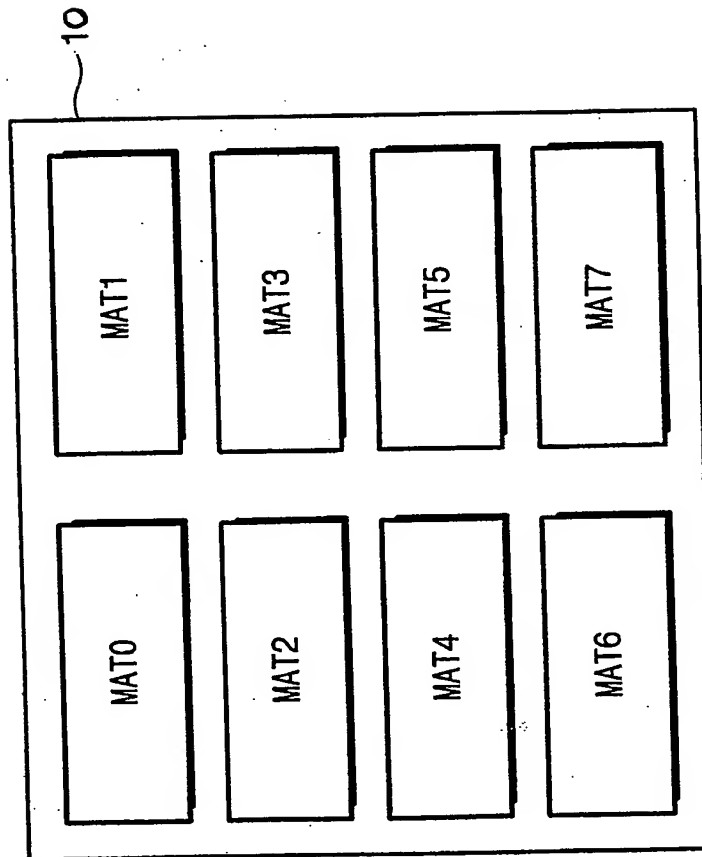


Fig. 2
(PRIOR ART)

MATO

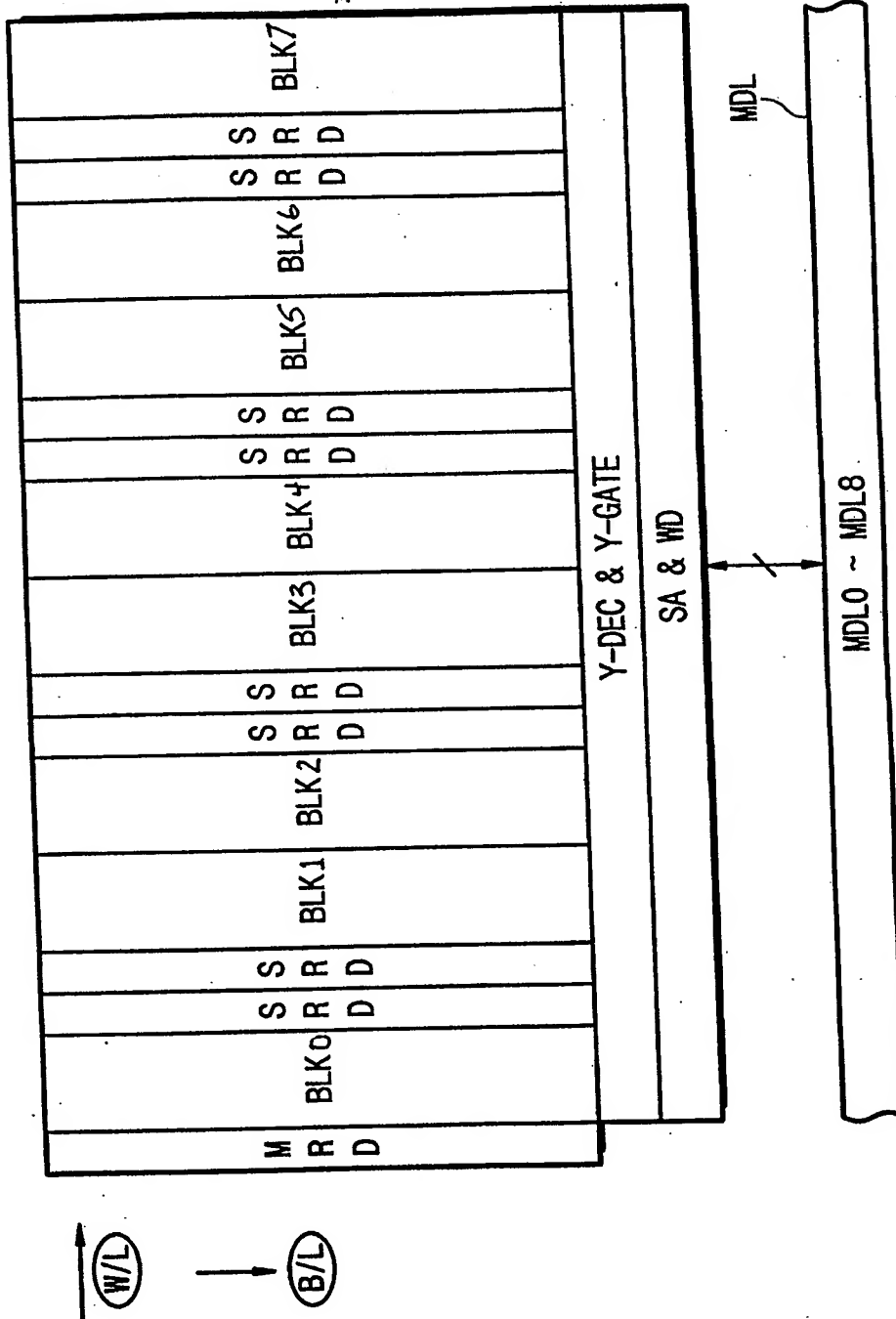


Fig. 3
(PRIOR ART)

BLK

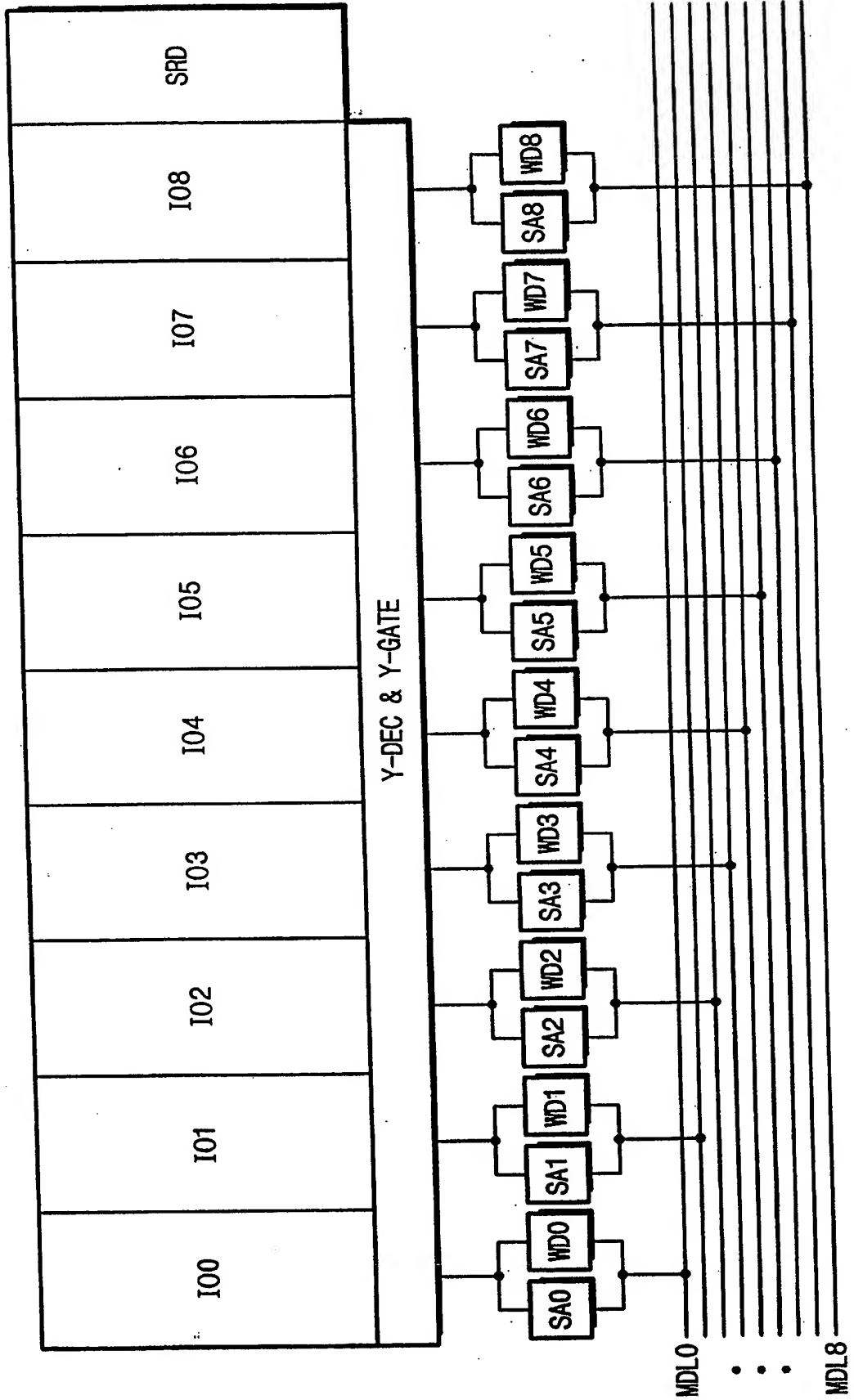


Fig. 4A (PRIOR ART)

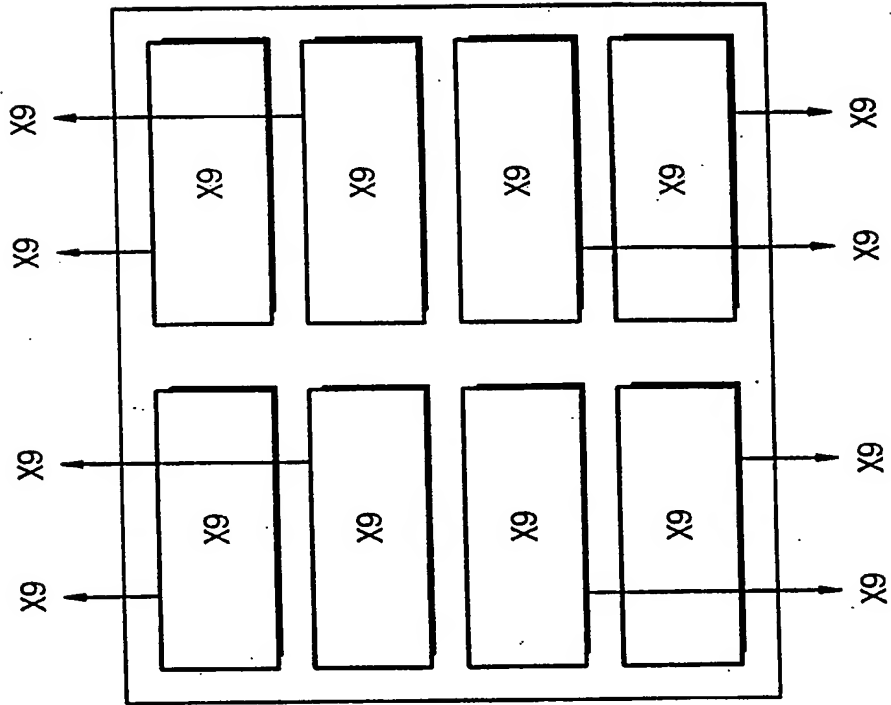


Fig. 4B
(PRIOR ART)

